

Yuba County Election Observer Panel Plan

May 19, 2009 Statewide Special Election

County and System Information

County: Yuba
Contact: Terry A Hansen, Clerk / Recorder - Registrar of Voters
Phone: (530) 749-7855

Vendor: Sequoia Voting Systems
Voting System: AVC Edge II / 400-C Optical Scan

Background

The purpose of this plan is to provide an avenue for public observation of the election process, obtain input into the election process, assist in ensuring the integrity of the election process and encourage participation and build voter confidence in the election process.

Events & Notification

Notice of the following events will be conspicuously posted at the Election Office at least 48 hours prior to their occurrence:

- Random Draw of 1% Manual Tally Precincts
- Pre Election Logic & Accuracy Testing
- Post Election Logic & Accuracy Testing

The following groups will be sent letters inviting them to participate:

- Political Party Central Committees
- Advocacy Groups
- Media (Print & Radio)

Other groups or individuals expressing an interest in observing Election Day activities may also be included in the observer panel.

Groups may also contact the Registrar of Voters to request an opportunity to ask questions about the process.

Appointment of Observer Panel

After all names of interested parties have been submitted to the Registrar of Voters, appointments to the Observer Panel will be made. Each individual appointed to the Observer Panel will be provided with the following:

- Introduction Letter – for panelist to use when visiting polling places on Election Day
- Listing of all Polling Places

- Central Count Information – to include site location and information regarding scheduled activities and hours of operation.

Rules of Conduct for Election Observers

Observers May

- Observe the proceedings at the polls, including the opening and closing procedures.
- Obtain information from the precinct index that is posted near the entrance.
- Make notes and watch all procedures.
- View all activities at the central counting site on Election Day.
- View the canvass of the vote activities following the election
- View absentee and provisional ballot processing.
- Ask questions of staff or voters at the polls.
- Ask questions of supervisors at the central counting site.

Observers are Responsible for:

- Checking in at each site, whether polling place or central counting site.
- Wearing an identification badge.
- Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes.
- Ensuring they do not interfere with election processes.

Observers may not:

- Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election
- Touch any voting materials or equipment or sit at the official worktables.
- Converse with voters (within 100 feet of the entrance to a polling place) regarding the casting of a vote, or speak to a voter regarding his or her qualifications to vote.
- Display an election material or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel.
- Wear the uniform of a peace officer, a private guard, or security personnel.
- Use cellular phones, pagers, or two-way radios inside the polling place and or within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.
- Talk to central counting site workers while they are processing ballots.
- Use the telephones, computers or other polling place facilities at polling places or the central counting site.
- Touch election personnel.
- Eat or drink in the polls or the central counting site.
- Assist in operations at any polling place.

Observer Panel Feedback

Participants on the Observer Panel are encouraged to submit feedback regarding their experience. This feedback can be submitted in writing, by email or in person.

- Written Feedback can be submitted directly to the elections office via mail at 915 8th Street, Suite 107, Marysville, CA 95901

- Email Feedback should be submitted to elections@co.yuba.ca.us
- In Person Feedback should be scheduled by contacting the Elections Office at 749-7855.